

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action follows a response filed on October 5, 2009. Claims 6 and 9-12 have been amended; no claims have been cancelled or added.
2. In view of amendment(s) and remarks the objection of claim 6, the rejection of claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, the rejection of claims 6, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable as obvious over Klock et al. (EP 0 402 213 A1) in view of Rombach et al. (U.S. Patent 3,153,009) and Phillips (U. S. Patent 4,297,262 or U. S. Patent 4,276,351), the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klock in view of Rombach and Phillips as applied to claims 6, 10 and 11 above, and further in view of Aurenty et al. (U. S. Patent 6,472,054), and the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klock in view of Rombach and Phillips as applied to claims 6, 10 and 11 above, and further in view of Kroggel et al. (U. S. Patent 5,559,175) have been withdrawn.
3. Claims 6 and 9-12 are active.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Maria M. Kourtakis (Reg. No. 41,126) on December 8, 2009.

5. Claims 1-3, 5, 13-16, and 18-20 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 6 and 9-12 are allowed.
7. The following is examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present claims are allowable over the closest reference: Klock et al. (EP 0 402 213 A1).

Klock discloses a process for preparing PVB composition having a mixture of butyral meso and butyral racemic stereoisomers using aqueous polyvinyl alcohol solution and butyraldehyde (abstract, page 5, lines 10-12). Agitation of reaction mixture takes place between 5 and 12°C during initially 10-90 minutes then the temperature increase up to 80°C and the process continuous during 1-4 hours. Dry weight PVA concentration is in the range 8- 15% based on the total weight of solution. A surfactant (sodium dodecylbenzene sulfonate, sodium lauryl sulfate or sodium dioctylsulfosuccinate) is present in the amount of 0.3-0.4-wt% based on the dry weight of PVA. In the next steps the pH raises up to 9-11 and PVB composition is neutralized with neutral water (page 2, lines 3-34, examples 1-4, pages 5 and 6). Hydrochloric acid with density 1.18 is used as acid compound (example 1, page 5, line 20). The final products have a hydroxyl number between 18 and 22 and meso to racemic ratio (M/R) in the claimed range (examples 1-4, pages 5 and 6)

However, Klock does not disclose or fairly suggest instantly claimed process for preparing a plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition comprising the plasticizer

selected from the group consisting of triethyleneglycol di-(2-ethyl hexanoate), dibutyl sebacate and tetraethylene glycol di(2-heptanoate), and step (b) stirring the aqueous reaction mixture for a period of from about 15 minutes to about 180 minutes at a temperature in the range of from 80°C to about 100°C, particularly step (e) extruding the plasticized polyvinyl butyral resin composition to form a sheet having a tensile creep of less than 2.5 %, which is unexpected result, as per claim 1.

8. As of the date of this Notice of Allowability, the Examiner has not located or identified any reference that can be used singularly or in combination with another reference including Klock et al. to render the present invention anticipated or obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

9. In the light of the above discussion, it is evident as to why the present claims are patentable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delay, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reason for Allowance".

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL M. BERNSTEYN whose telephone number is (571)272-2411. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 571-272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael M. Bernshteyn/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/M. M. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/David Wu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796